

Discussion Questions
“The Beast Is Not; So What Am I?”
Revelation 17

(Write down one sentence to describe who you most truly are. Then share it if you like.)

Throughout the Revelation, “John is outside of space-time, looking at space-time, in the strong right hand of God . . . who is Jesus. And all of this reveals something utterly fascinating about John, and about you, and about Jesus. There are at least two Johns: there is a John outside the scroll and one inside the scroll. It appears that John is one of the twenty-four elders around the throne in eternity constantly worshipping. And John is also a hotheaded fisherman, in 30 AD, in Galilee who wants to call down fire on a whole Samaritan village. He is also a John in that scroll.”—P.H.

- Do you think there must be at least two versions of you as well?
- Read Ephesians 2:4-8. The verbs in verses 4-6 are in past tense. According to this verse what *has* happened to you and where are you?
- After reading these verses, do you think God loves you? Do you think there’s anything you could do to add or take away from the life and love He *has* given you?

Read Revelation 17.

There are many different interpretations of how the Harlot and the beast have manifested in our world and might in the future, but it seems there is a spirit behind them: “The Harlot is an economy of *‘porneia,’* she is the spirit that tells us that we must pay for Love. She rides the beast. The beast is the spirit that tempts us to take life to make ourselves live.” —P.H.

- In what circumstances & situations do you feel most tempted to believe the lies that . . .
 1. You have to pay for Love?
 2. You have to take life in order to make yourself alive?
- Do you think the Harlot and beast have anything to do with you?
- Do you think you have participated in them in anyway?

It’s easy to get stressed about the beast and, in battling the beast, make oneself rather beastly and whorish. And yet, three times in chapter 17, the angel says, “The beast is not...” The beast exists in your past, which is your interpretation of events you have experienced. And the beast exists in your future, which is a fiction you have created based on your interpretation of the past. The past is gone. The future is fiction. But NOW is the day of Salvation. “NOW is the Judgment of this world. Now is the ruler of this world cast out,” said Jesus in John 12. —P.H.

- In reading this, especially the words of Christ, what does this reveal about how the ruler of this world is cast out?
- Do you think it reveals anything about how we can battle the beast?
- In your mind, when is “NOW”?
- God said, “I AM”. Do you think resting and living in the NOW might somehow help us better deflect the lies and help us rest in who God says we truly are?
- Can you think of any scriptures that talk about who you are in Christ now?

Although we all have participated in the activities of the beast (Rev. 13:16) and played the Harlot, that does not define who we are. Jesus and what He has done defines us. The Lord is the one “who was, and is, and is to come” (Rev. 4:8). The beast “is not now” (Rev. 17:11).

- Take a few moments to gaze into the eyes of your Father and believe His Judgment: The beast is *not*, but you *are* called, and chosen, and faithful”—that is I AM in you. That is who you truly are.

(Did your sentence about who you truly are change from what you wrote at first? If so, write down your new sentence and share it with those around you, if you like.)

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*